



# UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE  
United States Patent and Trademark Office  
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450  
www.uspto.gov

| APPLICATION NO.  | FILING DATE | FIRST NAMED INVENTOR | ATTORNEY DOCKET NO. | CONFIRMATION NO. |
|--|-------------|----------------------|---------------------|------------------|
| 10/507,189   | 09/09/2004  | Jerzy Janczak        | NL 020196           | 8980             |
| 24737  | 7590        | 09/20/2005           | EXAMINER            |                  |
| PHILIPS INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY & STANDARDS<br>P.O. BOX 3001<br>BRIARCLIFF MANOR, NY 10510 |             |                      | TRAN, THUY V        |                  |
|  |             |                      | ART UNIT            | PAPER NUMBER     |
|  |             |                      | 2821                |                  |

DATE MAILED: 09/20/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.



### **DETAILED ACTION**

This is a response to the Applicants' filing on 09/09/2004 and the preliminary amendment concurrently filed therewith. In virtue of this amendment, claims 1-13 are currently presented in the instant application.

#### ***Priority***

1. Receipt is acknowledged of papers submitted under 35 U.S.C. 119(a)-(d), which papers have been placed of record in the file.

#### ***Drawings***

2. The drawings submitted on 09/09/2004 are accepted.

#### ***Claim Objections/ Minor Informalities***

3. Claim 4 is objected to because of the following informalities:  
  
Claim 4, line 3, --- should be inserted after "4  $\Omega$ ".  
  
Appropriate correction is required.

#### ***Claim Objections/ Improper Dependent***

4. Claims 8-11 and 12-13 are objected to under 37 CFR 1.75(c), as being of improper dependent form for failing to further limit the subject matter of a previous claim. Applicant is required to cancel the claim(s), or amend the claim(s) to place the claim(s) in proper dependent form, or rewrite the claim(s) in independent form.

With respect to claim 8, while "Electric component module" is the preamble of the claim, "an electric circuit" that was previously recited in claim 1 does not constitute any further limitations. Therefore, the claim is not treated on the merits.

Claims 9-11 are not being treated on the merits since they are dependent on claim 8.

With respect to claim 12, while “Discharge lamp” is the preamble of the claim, “an electric circuit” that was previously recited in claim 1 does not constitute any further limitations. Therefore, the claim is not treated on the merits.

Claim 13 is not being treated on the merits since it is dependent on claim 12.

***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102***

5. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

6. Claims 1-3, 5-6, 8, and 12-13 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Boenigk et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,323,604).

With respect to claim 1, Boenigk et al. discloses, in Figs. 1c, 2b and 3a, an electric circuit [SCH] for igniting a discharge lamp [L] comprising (1) a voltage source [Uo] (see Fig. 1c), (2) one first condenser [C7] (see Fig. 2b) electrically connected to the voltage source, (3) a series chain [L1, ZKZ], electrically connected in parallel with the first condenser, of at least one ignition [ZKZ] and one first inductor [L1] (see Fig. 2b), and (4) a discharge lamp [L] electrically connected in parallel with the ignition [ZKZ], which discharge lamp is provided with a discharge vessel [EG] (see Fig. 3a), characterized in that the electric circuit is provided with a second inductor [SW] (see Fig. 2b) which is electrically connected in series with the discharge vessel [EG].

With respect to claim 2, Boenigk et al. discloses that the discharge lamp is formed by a high-pressure discharge lamp (see col. 6, lines 21-24).

Art Unit: 2821

With respect to claim 3, Boenigk et al. discloses that the discharge vessel is provided with sodium (see col. 6, lines 21-24).

With respect to claim 5, Boenigk et al. discloses that the second inductor [SW] is incorporated in the discharge lamp (see Figs. 2b and 3a).

With respect to claim 6, Boenigk et al. discloses that the electric circuit [SCH] is provided with a second condenser [C2], which is electrically connected in parallel with the second inductor [SW] and in series with the discharge vessel [EG] (see Figs. 2b and 3a).

With respect to claim 8, Boenigk et al. disclose, in Figs. 1c, 2b, and 3a, an electric component module for use with the electric circuit [SCH].

With respect to claim 12, Boenigk et al. discloses, in Figs. 1c, 2b, and 3a, that the discharge lamp [L] is for use in the electric circuit [SCH].

With respect to claim 13, Boenigk et al. discloses that the second inductor [SW] is incorporated in the discharge lamp (see Figs. 2b and 3a).

### ***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103***

7. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

8. Claims 4 and 7 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Boenigk et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,323,604).

With respect to claim 4, Boenigk et al. discloses all of the claimed subject matter, as expressly recited in claim 1, except for specifying that the second inductor has an impedance of

Art Unit: 2821

between  $2\ \Omega$  and  $10\Omega$ , preferably  $4\Omega$ . However, this difference is not of patentable merit since discovering an optimum value of a result effective variable involves only routine skill in the art. Therefore, to select a second inductor, for the electric circuit of Boenigk et al., having an impedance between  $2\ \Omega$  and  $10\Omega$ , or preferably  $4\Omega$ , to be suitable for a proper or desired operation would have been deemed obvious to a person skilled in the art.

With respect to claim 7, Boenigk et al. discloses all of the claimed subject matter, as expressly recited in claim 1, except for specifying that the capacitance of the second condenser lies between 5 nF and 15 nF, preferably 10 nF. However, this difference is not of patentable merit since discovering an optimum value of a result effective variable involves only routine skill in the art. Therefore, to select a second condenser, for the electric circuit of Boenigk et al., having a capacitance between 5 nF and 15 nF, or preferably 10 nF, to be suitable for a proper or desired operation would have been deemed obvious to a person skilled in the art.

***Allowable Subject Matter***

9. Claims 9-11 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

10. The following is a statement of reasons for the indication of allowable subject matter:

Prior art fails to disclose or fairly suggest an electric component module characterized in that the component module is provided with a plug for releasable coupling of the component module to the first condenser, a socket for releasable coupling of the component module to the discharge lamp, and at least one electric component electrically connected to the plug and the

Art Unit: 2821

socket, in combination with the remaining claimed limitations as called for in claim 9 (claims 10-11 would be allowable since they are dependent on claim 9).

***Citation of relevant prior art***

11. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

Prior art Hirschmann et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,191,538 B1) discloses a high-pressure discharge lamp.

Prior art Cottaar et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,606,222) discloses a lighting system.

Prior art Luijks et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,336,974) discloses a high-pressure discharge lamp.

Prior art Dannert et al. (U.S. Patent No. 4,714,862) discloses a circuit arrangement for high-pressure discharge lamps.

Prior art Samuels (U.S. Patent No. 4,342,948) discloses a high-pressure discharge lamp.

Prior art Van Heemskerck Veeckens (U.S. Patent No. 4,134,042) discloses a high-pressure discharge lamp.

***Inquiry***

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Thuy V. Tran whose telephone number is (571) 272-1828. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F (8:00 AM -5:00 PM).

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Don Wong can be reached on (571) 272-1834. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Art Unit: 2821

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

09/18/2005

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Thuy W. Tran', is written in a cursive style.

**THUY W. TRAN  
PRIMARY EXAMINER**